

## **BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

### **Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, November 22, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, November 22, 2005, at 3:00 p.m., at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Board Members Present**

Erminia Ramirez  
Jim Holley  
Mohamed Okdie **(ABS)**  
Willie Hampton  
Arthur Blackwell II **(ABS)**

##### **Department Personnel Present**

AC Gary Christian  
AC Walter Martin  
DC Tony Saunders  
Cmdr. Ricky Brown  
Cmdr. Jan Johnson  
Lt. Dwane Blackmon  
Sgt. Roger Johnson  
Sgt. Michael Lemons  
Sgt. Romel Alexander

##### **Board Staff Present**

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director  
Lawana Ducker, Personnel Director  
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv. **(ABS)**  
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator **(ABS)**  
Lloyd Sharper, Lieutenant  
Kent Cooper, Police Officer

##### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Ms. Walters

**RECORDERS**

Terence Bell  
Robert Brown

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chairperson Ramirez** called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:10 pm.

**Chairperson Ramirez** acknowledged the presence of Board members and staff.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Thursday, November 3, 2005
- Thursday, November 10, 2005
- Thursday, November 17, 2005

**MOTION:** **Comm. Holley** made the motion to approve the above Minutes.

**SECOND:** **Comm. Hampton** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

There were no report from the chair.

**4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS**

**CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED**

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
<b>2005 - Weekly Count of Complaints:</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1363</b>
<b>2004 - Weekly Count of Complaints:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1458</b>

- The Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) closed a total of **33** cases this week.
- The Office of the Chief Investigator submitted **3** cases to the Chief's Office.
- The Chief's Office has reviewed and returned **0** cases to OCI.

**Chairperson Ramirez** asked Exec. Dir. Goss did he say that 3 cases were submitted to the Chief's office?

**Exec. Dir. Goss** Yes.

## **5. PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF POLICE**

November 22, 2005

Volume 1, Issue 46

# Detroit Police Department

## Report to the Board of Police Commissioners

### *"Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships"*

*The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.*



### SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

#### Narcotics/ Gang Enforcement

#### Homicide

#### Special points of interest:

#### • Next meeting:

Thursday December 1, 2005  
 @3:00 P.M.

**Detroit Police Headquarters**  
 1300 Beaubien, Suite 328A  
 Detroit, MI 48228

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During the period of November 14th through November 20th, Narcotics /Gang Enforcement conducted 18 search warrants and 38 street enforcement actions within the boundaries of the city of Detroit, resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- 22 Felony arrests
  - 114 Misdemeanor arrests
  - 7 Juveniles detained
  - 137.5 Grams of cocaine, 91.5 grams of heroin, 5,475.2 grams of marijuana, street value **\$241,600.00**
  - **\$17,028.00** in U.S. Currency
- Confiscated:
- 5 Handguns

On November 18th, officers from Homicide responded to the 20000 block of Lahser on a "Shooting" run. An investigation revealed that a man went to this location in order to talk to his girlfriend. While talking through the screen door, the female's brother came out onto the porch armed with a handgun and an argument ensued between the two (2) men which resulted in the brother shooting the man one time in the chest. The man was conveyed to Sinai Grace Hospital where he was pronounced dead. As a result of this investigation, one (1) man was arrested without incident for "First Degree Murder" and "Felony Firearm."

#### Violent Crimes Task Force

On November 15th, officers from the Violent Crimes Task Force and Repeat Offenders Program received information as to the location of a man wanted in connection with a homicide. Officers set up stationary surveillance and observed the man attempting to leave the location. As a result of their efforts, the man was arrested without incident.



#### Eastern District

On November 20th, officers of the Eastern District responded to the 13000 block of E. Warren on a "Hold-Up Alarm" run. An

#### Northeastern District

On November 14th, officers of the Northeastern District received information regarding a complaint of "Uttering and



**6. PRESENTATION/REPORT – NARCOTICS SECTION**

**(SEE ATTACHMENTS)**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**AC Christian** introduced Cmdr. Ricky Brown of the Organized Crime Section.

**Comm. Holley** What does HIDTA stand for?

**Cmdr. Brown** It stands for High Indensity Drug Traffic Area.

**Comm. Holley** What does DMGA stand for?

**Cmdr. Brown** It stands for Detroit Metropolitan Airport Group. Those officers are assigned to the airport and the Detroit area. They also respond for packages that contain narcotics that are shipped through UPS and Federal Express.

**Comm. Holley** Does the police department have jurisdiction at the airport?

**Cmdr. Brown** It is a federal task force and they are deputized through the federal government.

**Comm. Holley** Are they under department command or the federal government command?

**Cmdr. Brown** They are under department command assigned to the task force.

**Comm. Holley** Do we receive money from the task force?

**Cmdr. Brown** Yes.

**Comm. Holley** Is that in your presentation?

**Cmdr. Brown** Yes.

**Chairperson Ramirez** You mentioned that the department receives shared proceeds.

**Cmdr. Brown** Yes, whenever proceeds are confiscated the department receives a portion of that because of the department assigned officers on the task force.

**Comm. Holley** How is the portion divided?

**Cmdr. Brown** It is a formula that he is not familiar with but the department gets a substantial amount because the task force is small.

**Chairperson Ramirez** Do the funds go to the police department or to the general fund?

**Cmdr. Brown** It goes to the forfeiture funds.

**Comm. Holley** Is the 1243 on your chart being subtracted from the 1529?

**Cmdr. Brown** No.

**Comm. Holley** You mentioned released.

**Cmdr. Brown** When we go to raid a location not everyone is arrested.

**Comm. Holley** The 1243 has nothing to do with the 1529 that were arrested?

**Cmdr. Brown** That's correct.

**Comm. Holley** Does the department keep stats on how many convictions come from the arrested?

**Cmdr. Brown** We don't have anything to track that.

**Comm. Holley** Do you think we should be tracking this?

**Cmdr. Brown** The stats would be a better service for the prosecutor's office.

**Comm. Holley** Especially if we want to get more federal dollars and employ more officers on the task force.

**Comm. Hampton** What is the street value of the cocaine that was confiscated?

**Cmdr. Brown** We estimate a gram to cost \$400.00 and we multiply that by the amount that was confiscated.

**Chairperson Ramirez** What happens to the drugs after the court process?

**Cmdr. Brown** They are maintained throughout the appeal process. After the appeal process we have a bulk burning and they will be burned.

**Chairperson Ramirez** Where do they burn it?

**Cmdr. Brown** At the incinerator.

**Comm. Holley** Could you tell me the definition of Capias?

**Cmdr. Brown** People who are wanted or did not appear for a previous drug case.

**Comm. Holley** We do not call them felonies anymore, we use the word capias?

**Cmdr. Brown** No, that's a term we use when they do not appear for arraignment or examination. We will have modified push offs.

**Comm. Holley** What are modified push offs?

**Cmdr. Brown** We have officers posing as drug dealers.

**Comm. Holley** Is it easier to explain what you can't do with the forfeiture funds as opposed to what you can do with the forfeiture funds?

**Cmdr. Brown** To sum it all up, we can use forfeiture funds if it is directly related to enhancing enforcement activities including training and substance abuse programs.

**Comm. Holley** Could community groups use forfeiture funds?

**AC Martin** No. The chief has some programs through the Health Department in which the community will be involved. There are some drug programs that we will be enhancing with forfeiture funds. They are doing the research now and we should have the paperwork by next week.

**Comm. Holley** asked AC Martin to partnership with the Board with the Health Department. This will help us to engage the community within these programs.

**AC Martin** Ok, we will.

**Comm. Holley** I speaks for my colleagues that we want to be more involved and proactive with the police department.

**AC Martin** Yes, sir I agree.

**Comm. Holley** The \$10 million dollars in forfeiture funds should be able to support programs for the community.

**AC Martin** The \$10 million dollar figure has a local and federal side to it.

**Comm. Holley** I would suggest that the department present the exact amount that they receive from the federal government.

**AC Martin** Everyone is trying to get a piece of these funds.



**Comm. Holley** asked AC Martin if he understands where he's coming from.

**Cmdr. Brown** I will reach out to Dr. Trent on a relationship between the Board and the Health Department before I complete the proposal.

**Comm. Holley** I want the Board's name on it along with the Police Department.

**AC Martin** We will talk about it.

**Chairperson Ramirez** I have seen a raid with the State Police, DEA Agents and the Sheriffs Department but no Detroit Police Officers.

**Cmdr. Brown** A lot of times the Detroit Police Officers may not have on a uniform.

**Comm. Holley** I would think that we would have a good relationship with the State Police. What I do not understand is why the State Police continue to stop our police officers. At some point I would like to know the department's relationship with other agencies. I was involved in a case where a police officer was killed and the agencies that were involved all wanted to claim it was their territory.

In the beginning of your presentation it mentioned Organized Crime. It had gang squad with it but you didn't mention it in your presentation.

**Cmdr. Brown** That was the title along the side of Organized Crime.

**DC Saunders** Our relationship with the other agencies is very good. They come to us because they need us. We provide them with a lot of intelligence and information that they could not get in the past.

**Comm. Holley** It bothers me when a state trooper stops a police officer. When a state trooper shoots a homeless person in the city of Detroit. Is there anything the Board can do to help that relationship?

**DC Saunders** We meet and have constant dialogue with the other agencies.

**Comm. Holley** What about the gang squad?

**Cmdr. Brown** It is under the division of Organized Crime.

**Comm. Hampton** What impact did the Restructuring Plan have on the Narcotics Section?

**Cmdr. Brown** We reorganized per the Restructuring Plan but we are still able to cover the district that we are assigned too. We still have a rapport with the community groups.

**Comm. Hampton** Is staffing the same?

**Cmdr. Brown** Yes.

**Chairperson Ramirez** How many females do you have in Narcotics?

**Cmdr. Brown** Approximately one per shift.

**Chairperson Ramirez** Will you be trying to recruit more?

**Cmdr. Brown** Yes ma'am.

**Chairperson Ramirez** If you have a two-family flat and the warrant was for only one of the addresses do you raid both of the addresses?

**Cmdr. Brown** We only raid the address that's on the warrant. If a subject runs to the other address, then we will raid it too.

**Comm. Hampton** What's the response time for a call from 224-DOPE if it has merit?

**Cmdr. Brown** It is assigned to a raid group. They may get to it within a week. Depending on what they find a course of action will be taken.

**Comm. Hampton** Is there a follow-up call with the caller or do they wish to remain anonymous?

**Cmdr. Brown** Sometimes the callers will leave their names and we do a follow-up call.

**Chairperson Ramirez** Are you saying you will service the major complaints and not the little complaints?

**Cmdr. Brown** No, we are going to service all the complaints but put more focus on the major ones.

**Comm. Holley** What are the check and balances when you confiscate money?

**Cmdr. Brown** The subject signs a notice of forfeiture form. It is filled out and signed by the subject, supervisor and witness describing the total amount.

**Comm. Holley** What happens when it gets to police headquarters?

**Cmdr. Brown** It is placed on evidence and put in the computer. The officers on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor have to count it and sign for it and then it is placed in a safe immediately.

**Comm. Holley** Do you put it in a bank?

**Cmdr. Brown** Not immediately. It is placed in a safe until it goes into a property section.

**Comm. Holley** The money goes into a property section?

**Cmdr. Brown** Yes, sir.

**Comm. Holley** Why couldn't we do this electronically?

**Cmdr. Brown** We are not at that point yet.

**Comm. Holley** Is anyone else in the country doing it electronically?

**Cmdr. Brown** I do not know, but the property section will deposit it in the bank.

**Comm. Holley** Can the community use the interest from the deposited forfeiture funds?

**AC Martin** No.

**Chairperson Ramirez** We are getting complaints from the subjects about how much money was confiscated. You mentioned a form that they have to fill out.

**Cmdr. Brown** Yes, a notice of intent to forfeiture. It is counted in front of the subject. It is signed and the amount is placed on the form.

**Comm. Holley** You guys do a great job.

**Chairperson Ramirez** Do the parents of a teenager have to prove that the money that was found in their house belongs to them.

**Cmdr. Brown** It goes to the civil forfeiture section and it is determined there.

**Chairperson Ramirez** Do the parents have to prove where the money came from?

**Cmdr. Brown** Normally, they have to show how they acquired the money.

**Comm. Holley** They don't have to determine that in narcotics?

**Cmdr. Brown** No.

**Chairperson Ramirez** If they had \$5,000, they will have to go to civil court and show where that money came from?

**Cmdr. Brown** Yes ma'am.

**Chairperson Ramirez** acknowledged Sgt. Lemmons of the Narcotic Section. Thank you for a wonderful job of educating parents on household products that kids use to get high on. You will be missed when you retire.

**Sgt. Lemmons** I am training someone to replace me upon my retirement.

## **7. REQUEST PERMISSION TO ACCEPT GRANT**

The United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has awarded the Detroit Police Department \$50,509.52 in funding for the purchase of 117 armored vests. Each vest cost \$429.95; the total cost is inclusive of shipping and handling charges. There is **no cash match** for this grant program.

**MOTION:** **Comm. Holley** made the motion to approve the above Minutes.

**SECOND:** **Comm. Hampton** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**Chairperson Ramirez** Do the officers take the vest home?

**AC Christian** I will get an answer to that. There are two types of vests; tactical and personal body armour. Personal body armour is the responsibility of each officer. Tactical vests are maintained by the Narcotics Section and used when they are raiding a location.

**Comm. Holley** Does the department have a shortage of vests?

**AC Christian** No, but I will look into it.

**8. WITHDRAWAL APPEAL**

**Comm. Hampton** read the following:

To: Disciplinary Appeals Subcommittee, Commissioner Hampton

Subject: **POLICE OFFICER ADRIAN SINGLETON, BADGE 250**

It is recommended that that Officer Adrian Singleton's request to withdraw the above cited appeal be granted for the following reasons:

On or about October 28, 2005, Officer Singleton's representative submitted written notification that the officer wishes to withdraw his petition before the Board because he intends to appeal the above-cited disciplinary matter to arbitration.

**MOTION:** **Comm. Hampton** made the motion to approve the above recommendation of the Appeals Subcommittee.

**SECOND:** **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**Chairperson Ramirez** For clarification, he chose to withdraw his petition and go to arbitration.

**Comm. Hampton** That's correct.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, December 1, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.  
Police Headquarters, Room 328-A  
1300 Beaubien  
Detroit, MI 48226

## **11. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**Comm. Holley** I asked Ms. Shelia Henderson to come and share her concerns.

**Shelia Henderson** The police was called to my home by my husband who hasn't been living there for two weeks. The police arrived and made everyone get out of bed and come down stairs. After having conversations with several officers, I was pepper sprayed and arrested for domestic violence for striking my husband. I am here today because I feel like I have been violated.

**Comm. Holley** Ms. Henderson please speak with Lt. Sharper and we will investigate the situation and get back with her in two weeks.

**Shelia Henderson** I was degraded and the officers mentioned that I had a dysfunctional family.

**Chairperson Ramirez** Lt. Sharper will take the information and assign it to an investigator.

**Exec. Dir. Goss** The process will take a little longer than two weeks!

**Ms. Walters** My vehicle broke down and a Hazel Park police officer assisted me until my vehicle was repaired. I think he needs to be recognized for his support.

**Comm. Hampton** I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. But, I want everyone to be considerate of those who do not have food to eat.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**DANTE' L. GOSS**  
Executive Director  
Board of Police Commissioners

**DLG/rb**